

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A temporary attachment for jaw implants, the temporary attachment being attached to a jaw implant by means of a screw after the implant has been inserted into a jawbone and~~jaw implant comprising:

a screw;

an implant body having an implant head and a threaded bore extending from the implant head in the direction of a longitudinal axis of the implant body for engagement with the screw; and

a temporary attachment for forming jaw tissue above the implant head after the implant body has been inserted into a jawbone, the temporary attachment having

a base part;

a head part; and

a molded piece made of a biocompatible and elastic material located between the base part and the head part, the screw passing through the head part, the molded piece and the base part and engaging the threaded bore to fasten the temporary attachment to the implant head, said elastic material the molded piece being deformable under the action of the screw and situated in order to transfer the resulting transferring its deformation to surrounding jaw tissue.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The temporary attachment jaw implant of claim 1, wherein the jaw-implant head has a head with a shape and wherein the base part has a first side surface shaped to fit closely to the implant head shape, and has a second side surface in contact with the molded piece and is attached to the implant head by the screw.~~

1 3. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 2, wherein
2 the second side surface of the base part has a shape profile that, under force
3 from the screw, predetermines the type of deformation of the molded piece in the
4 area of the base so that the surrounding jaw tissue is formed accordingly.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1, wherein
2 the head part has a side surface that is in contact with the molded piece, ~~the~~
3 ~~head side having~~ and has a shape profile which, under force from the screw,
4 predetermines the type of deformation of the molded piece ~~in the area of the~~
5 head so that the surrounding jaw tissue is formed accordingly.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 4, wherein
2 the base part has a side surface in contact with the molded piece and wherein
3 the base side part surface and the head side part surface each have a convex
4 shape profile which, under force of the screw, ~~results in~~ predetermines a barrel-
5 shaped deformation of the molded piece ~~under action of the screw which is~~
6 transferred to the surrounding jaw tissue.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 4, wherein
2 the head side part surface has a shape profile which tapers toward the molded
3 piece and predetermines a deformation of the molded piece in the area of the
4 head part.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 4 wherein
2 the base part has a side surface in contact with the molded piece and wherein
3 one of the base side part surface and the head side part surface has a radially
4 asymmetric shape profile causing a radially asymmetric deformation of the
5 molded piece extending to extend the periphery of the molded piece in a
6 predetermined radial direction.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 7 wherein
2 the predetermined radial direction of ~~deformation can be~~ is selected by rotating
3 one of the base part and the head part around a the longitudinal axis of the
4 implant.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1, wherein
2 the screw has a head and wherein ~~the attachment head comprises the screw~~
3 head the head part of the temporary attachment is the screw head.

10. (Canceled).

1 11. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1 wherein
2 the molded piece has a cylindrical shape.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1 wherein
2 the molded piece has a longitudinal height at least equal to a thickness of
3 gingival tissue layer over the jawbone.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1 wherein
2 the molded piece is fabricated of silicone material.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1 wherein
2 the implant ~~has a head that contacts the molded piece and wherein~~ forms the
3 base part ~~comprises the implant head.~~

1 15. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1, wherein
2 the implant ~~has a head with a shape that contacts the base and wherein the base~~
3 is shaped both the implant head and the base part have radially asymmetrical
4 surfaces that interlock to prevent rotation of the base part with respect to the
5 implant head.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1, wherein
2 at least one of the base part and the head part is fixedly attached to the molded
3 piece.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The ~~temporary attachment~~ jaw implant of claim 1, wherein
2 the ~~screw threads into a threaded bore in the jaw implant wherein the threaded~~
3 ~~bore is used to fasten~~ receives a screw that fastens a superstructure to the
4 implant body.

1 18. (New) A jaw implant comprising:

2 an implant body with an implant head and a threaded bore extending from
3 the implant head in the direction of a longitudinal axis of the implant body for
4 engagement with a screw that attaches a superstructure to the implant body; and
5 a temporary attachment forming jaw tissue above the implant head after
6 the implant body has been inserted into a jawbone and before the superstructure
7 is attached, the temporary attachment having a head part; and a molded piece
8 made of a biocompatible and elastic material, the screw passing through the
9 head part and the molded piece and engaging the threaded bore to fasten the
10 temporary attachment to the implant head, the molded piece being deformable
11 when the screw is tightened and transferring its deformation to surrounding jaw
12 tissue, wherein the implant head has a profile that predetermines the type of
13 deformation of the molded piece, thereby forming the surrounding jaw tissue
14 accordingly.

1 19. (New) The jaw implant of claim 18 wherein the implant head comprises a profile
2 in the form of opposing slopes which, after the implant has been inserted into the
3 jawbone, are exposed on buccal and lingual sides of the jawbone and widen the
4 molded piece under force of the screw to extend a periphery of the molded piece
5 in directions of the buccal and lingual sides.

- 1 20. (New) The jaw implant of claim 18, wherein the screw has a head and wherein
2 the head part of the temporary attachment is the screw head.
- 1 21. (New) The jaw implant of claim 18 wherein the molded piece has a cylindrical
2 shape.
- 1 22. (New) The jaw implant of claim 18 wherein the molded piece has a height at least
2 equal to a thickness of gingival tissue layer over the jawbone.
- 1 23. (New) The jaw implant of claim 1 wherein the molded piece is fabricated of
2 silicone material.
- 1 24. (New) A method for pre-forming gingival tissue located over a jaw implant body
2 prior to attaching a superstructure to the jaw implant body, the method
3 comprising:
4 (a) attaching a molded piece made of a biocompatible and elastic material to
5 the implant body by means of a screw passing through the molded piece
6 and engaging a threaded bore in the implant body, the molded piece fitting
7 into a channel in the gingival tissue above the jaw implant body and
8 contacting the gingival tissue surrounding the channel along the length of
9 the channel;
10 (b) tightening the screw to deform the molded piece thereby causing selective
11 radial expansion of the gingival tissue surrounding the channel;
12 (c) removing the molded piece; and
13 (d) attaching the superstructure.
- 1 25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein step (b) comprises repeatedly tightening
2 the screw predetermined amounts at discrete time intervals so that the gingival
3 tissue is expanded in steps.

1 26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein step (a) comprises attaching the molded
2 piece with a shape and a position with respect to the jawbone so that, in step (b),
3 the selective radial expansion of the gingival tissue occurs on both a buccal and
4 a lingual side of the jawbone.

1 27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein step (c) comprises unscrewing the screw
2 from the threaded bore.

1 28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein step (d) comprises attaching the
2 superstructure using a screw threaded into the threaded bore.